THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

FOR MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1818.

Account of Captain Scoresby's Observations on the Greenland or Polar Ice.

From Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine.

ONE of the most skilful and intrepid of the Greenwich Captains, Mr. Scoresby, many years since attracted the attention of the most distinguished professors of the university of Edinburgh, not more by the accuracy of his information in all matters connected with his avocations as a seaman, than by the facility and industry with which he applied himself to various branches of learning, not immediately connected with the duties of his profession. The success which attended his studies is the more surprising, as even at this time he was engaged, during the greater part of the year, in the most active and least sedentary employment which it is easy to conceive, namely, as mate or master on board of a Greenland vessel. In consequence, however, of his residence in Edinburgh, and the opportunities which were there afforded him of associating with scientific and literary men, he perceived the value bestowed on such observations as an intelligent person would have an opportunity of making in those high northern latitudes which he so often had occasion to explore. Instigated, therefore, as well by the natural bent of his inclination, as by the expectations of those men who had been both his friends and instructors, in his succeeding voyages he soon proved, by the originality

and accuracy of his remarks on those wonderful phenomena with which he was daily surrounded, that the most sanguine anticipations were not likely to be disappointed.

Captain Scoresby has already communicated to the public, through the medium of the Wernerian Natural History Society's Memoirs, several very interesing Meteorological Journals, kept by himself during voyages from Whitby to Greenland. He has also, in the same work, described, and for the first time accurately figured, the Great Northern or Greenland Whale, the Balæna mysticetus of naturalists. This latter communication is the more valuable, as in fact zoologists have hitherto been perfectly unacquainted with the true proportions and appearance of this monarch of the deep, Mr. Scoresby's figure being the only one which is allowed by competent judges to give a true representation of it. The drawing was executed by himself, and he had an opportunity of proving its accuracy, by the fact, that it agrees in all respects with those individuals of the same species which he has since met with in the Arctic Ocean. The dimensions of this valuable animal have either greatly decreased since former times, or the accounts which have been handed down to us are much exaggerated. The largest whale which Captain Scoresby has ever heard of being killed in the Greenland seas, did not exceed 70 feet, and out of about 200 which he has seen taken, not one measured 65 feet in length. In the same paper there are some interesting remarks on a subject, of which, *a priori*, we should scarcely have credited the existence,—the maternal affection of whales, besides other particulars in their history.

It is our intention, in this short communication, to give a sketch of a very interesting unpublished paper of Captain Scoresby's, which is about to make its appearance in the ensuing half volume of the Memoirs before referred to*.

Judging from the slender information with which we have hitherto been furnished, there are certainly few quarters of the world which are more capable of exciting our deepest interest than the countries within the Arctic circle. Whether we consider the great value of the fisheries, by which we have already so greatly benefited for a long period of time, or the prospect which a more familiar acquaintance with a region so extensive, and so little known, holds forth to us of benefits as essential as those which have universally resulted from all great geographical discoveries, it is of the utmost importance that every manifestation of a bold, yet judicious spirit of enterprize, should meet with encouragement and reward.

* Part II. Vol. ii.

The most interesting, as well as one of the most important discoveries which could be made in geographical science, would be that of a passage from the North Sea, by the north-west or north-east, to the Northern Pacific Ocean. Such a task, however, could not be undertaken by any one, however skilful in seamanship, who had not been accustomed, from his boyhood, to navigate among the floating icebergs and fields of the highest latitudes. In fact, the nature of many essential branches in the science of navigation is there completely changed; the land presents itself under a new and disguised form; the prognostics to be derived from the phenomena of the atmosphere are altered; and those from the appearance of whales, the ice blink, &c. being unknown in more temperate climates, can only be advantageously understood by those who have made such studies the object of their most persevering and habitual attention. From this it follows, that no one is so properly fitted for the execution of so important an attempt, as a person who has been for a great many years constantly, extensively, and successfully engaged as commander of a Greenland ship; and we do not hesitate to give it as our opinion, that of these, collectively, there is no individual so well qualified to be placed at the head of such an arduous enterprize as Captain William Scorsby. We are happy to understand that hopes may be entertained of his being appointed to the command of a vessel intended to explore the north-west passage, and certainly a more useful combination of courage, skill, and general intelligence, need not be desired.

We shall now proceed to give a short account of the paper which has induced us to make the preceding observations, and this we do, more with the hope and intention of exciting, than of satisfying, the curiosity of those who may feel an interest in such subjects. The following passage conveys, in few words, an impressive idea of the general character of the Greenland landscape, and of its most remarkable inhabitant.

"The land is of itself a sublime object, its stupendous mountains, rising by steep acclivities from the very margin of the ocean to an immense height, terminating in rigid, conical, or pyramidal summits; its surface, contrasting its native protruding dark-coloured rocks with its burden of purest snow; the whole viewed under the density of a gloomy sky, forms a picture impressive and grand. Its most remarkable inhabitant is the White or Polar Bear, which indeed also occurs on the ice. This ferocious animal seems to

be the natural lord of these regions. He preys indiscriminately on quadruped, fowl, reptile, and fish; all behold him with dread, and flee his presence. The seals signify their fear of him by their constant watching, and betake themselves precipitately to the water on his approach. Carrion, therefore (of which the carcase of the whale is at a certain season the most plentiful), affords him a passive, sure, and favourite food. His sense of smelling is peculiarly acute: in his march, he is frequently observed to face the breeze, to rear his head, and snuff the passing scent, whereby he can discover the nearest route to his odorous banquet, though the distance be incredibly great."

Captain Scoresby then describes the various kinds of ice, and defines the terms used by those who frequent the Greenland seas, to distinguish it under all its different forms. It appears, that during the progress of freezing, the salt of sea water is separated from the crystals of ice, which accounts for the circumstance, at first view so extraordinary, and which probably induced Buffon and others to deny altogether the freezing of the sea, that sea ice, when dissolved, generally yields fresh water. Sea ice is porous and opake, and whatever salt it contains is lodged between the parts of which it is composed; and hence results the peculiarity, long since observed by Daines Barrington, that when melted without being washed, the water was saltish, but if held under the spout of a pump well, for some time before it was dissolved, it yielded fresh water.

A mixture of salt with water greatly reduces its freezing point.—

"Thus, though pure water, of specific gravity 1.0000, freeze with a temperature of 32 degrees, water of specific gravity 1.0263, containing about 5¾ oz. (avoird.) of salt in every gallon of 231 cubic inches, that is with the degree of saltness common to the Greenland seas, freezes at 28½°. Sea water, concentrated by freezing until it obtains the specific gravity of 1.1045, requires a temperature of 13two-thirds degrees, for its congelation, having its freezing point reduced 18⅓ degrees, below that of pure water; and water, saturated with sea-salt, remains liquid at a temperature of four degrees.

The polar ice formed from fresh water is distinguished by its greater transparency, and beauty. It may be formed into lenses, capable of producing a considerable intensity of heat; sufficient, for instance, to burn wood, fire gunpowder, melt lead, and light the sailors' tobacco-pipes. This last experiment Captain Scoresby used to try, to the great admiration of his men, who could not devise how so great a heat

could be produced by such extraordinary means, or how the ice itself should remain unmelted, while the heat emerged from it.

To be continued.

Remarks upon England, extracted from the Journal of their Imperial Highnesses the Archdukes John and Lewis of Austria.

Continued from Page 250.

ACCORDING to the calculations of Mr. Murdoch (who had the superintendence of the apparatus) the establishment contains 630 lights of three openings, and 261 lights in glasses, like those of the Argand lamps; each of the former is equal to four candles, each of the latter to two candles and a half; consequently, the light of the whole is equal to that of two thousand five hundred candles. For the production of this light, there are required 1250 cubic feet of gas per hour: which, reckoning upon an average two hours light daily, makes 2500 cubic feet per diem. This is obtained from 7000 measures of coals, each weighing 150lb. The ton of Cannel coal from Wigan costs 22*s.* 6*d.* For three hundred and thirteen working days in the year, 110 tons of coals are required, which cost 125*l* sterling. For the heating of the retorts 40 tons are required, which, at ten shillings a ton, makes 20*l.* sterling. The whole charges of lighting in this manner amount to 600*l.* per annum. To obtain the same quantity of light from candles would cost 2000*l.* reckoning the candles at only a shilling a pound: if light was required for three hours, it would cost with gas only 650*l.* and with candles 5000*l.*

We returned to Mr Lee, whom his indisposition had hindered from accompanying us: he very politely offered to explain to us any thing, respecting which we might wish for farther information; we however declined it, that we might not let him perceive that the distrust which we fancied we observed, had struck us. After we had taken our leave, we communicated to each other our remarks on their mysterious conduct, at which, however, we had the less reason to be surprised, as we afterwards learnt that even Englishmen are not admitted into the interior of the establishment. Such precautions, however, can never be long effectual, and in the end, all these secrets become known; were this not

the case, there would be only one spinning manufactory in the world, namely the original one.

It is calculated, that one million five hundred thousand pounds of raw cotton are worked up every week in the manufactories of Manchester; and in the same time of six days, a single house pays 10,000*l.* for the purchase of raw cotton. One single manufactory pays 150*l.* a week for wages. From this, an idea may be formed of the active industry of this place, and of the riches which commerce must bring into it. The manufactories use so great a number of thermometers, that an Italian whom we know (a Mr. Zanetti), who is settled in Manchester, sells ten or twelve dozen every week. Three hundred steam engines in constant motion produce all these wonders.

It may readily be imagined, that a place of such trade must contain a proportionate number of commissioners and factors, and also waggon masters, who carry on business on a large scale. We were shewn the house of one of the latter, who eighteen years ago possessed hardly any property, and has now an income of 30,000*l.* sterling. During the last war he was able to make the Government an offer of 800 horses.

Manchester is the principal manufacturing and commercial town of the county of Lancaster. Its situation, in the neighbourhood of several rivers and canals, particularly that of Bridgwater, has essentially contributed to render its manufactories flourishing. It is pleasing to contemplate the gradual increase of the population and trade of this town. As early as the year 1650, Manchester was noted for its industry: its population amounted to 27,000. In the year 1651, the hospital and the public library were founded. Since the year 1808, its extent has been considerably enlarged. In 1758 the first stage coach drove through Manchester. From that time till 1815, the town has rapidly increased, chiefly through the erection of cotton manufactories, and still more since their union with steam-engines, which may be called the soul of industry. A proof of the prosperity of Manchester is afforded by its increasing population, which in 1781 amounted (Salford included) to 50,000, and in 1815, to 110,000 souls.

In the year 1770, Mr. Richard Meadover of invented durable colours for his silk pocket handkerchiefs. His method of dyeing has attained a high degree of perfection. In order not to be inferior to the Dutch in the manufacture of ribbons, able mechanicians were employed, who invented machines, which are used with success, both for them and

all kinds of goods called "small work," as for instance, fringes for curtains, cotton galloons, &c.

The introduction of glazing caused a revolution in the whole system of bleaching and dyeing, because more durable colours were required. The printed calicoes began to rival those of London, and this branch is at present highly important to Manchester. Sir John Wilson, in particular, has greatly contributed to improve it, by examining the process of dyeing on chemical principles, and was thus led to several discoveries and useful inventions. From a (Greek) dyer at Smyrna, he obtained the secret of the Turkish red, and thus one improvement succeeded another. Sir Richard Arkwright, whom we have mentioned before, erected his first spinning machine in 1768; in the year 1775 he improved this first machine, and made a second, for the preparation of the cotton, for which he received a second patent. By means of these inventions, the manufactories took an entirely new direction. The spinning machines were introduced. They began to make calicoes in the year 1772, and muslins in 1781. It was by the aid of this invention alone that it was possible for the manufacturers and workmen to execute the large orders they received for cotton goods. The use of these machines was very limited in the beginning, but they were speedily so much improved, that by a single wheel thousands of spindles are turned.

The steam-engines, their improvement and advantageous applications, have very much extended the mechanism of the various branches. The great quantity of coals they consume rendered the latter dearer; but as by these means the labour is greatly accelerated, the profit increases in proportion, and is the foundation of the great success of the manufactories. The number of spindles which are at work in the different manufactories in Manchester, is calculated to be 1,515,500. The power of one horse is sufficient to turn a thousand spindles. A manufacturer, whose steam-engine is of ten-horse power, requires (including fuel) daily a ton weight of coals, which amounts to the consumption of 47,070 tons.

The great increase of the different branches of industry of Manchester has extended, in proportion, all kinds of manufactures and trade connected with spinning. All kinds of paper are here likewise made in the greatest perfection. There are in the town twelve foundries, many smiths, tinmen, pewterers, &c. and all these contribute to the perfection of the machines.

A general view of the spinning manufactories in England will not be misplaced here. There are in

Lancashire	42
Derbyshire	22
Nottinghamshire	17
Yorkshire	11
Cheshire	8
Staffordshire	4
Westmoreland	5
Berkshire	2
In other parts of England	6
In the Principality of Wales	4
On the Isle of Man	1
In Scotland	19
Total,	141

These worked up,

In the year 1781, 5,101,920lb. cotton, value 2,000,000*l.* sterling.

In the 1787, 22,600,000 lb. cotton value 7,500,000*l.* sterling.

At that time ('787) it was calculated that these spinning manufactories, in which there were employed 159,000 men, 90,000 women, and 105,000 children, total 350 000 persons, could manufacture as much yarn as 1,000,000 labourers could do without these machines. There are manufactories which have 30 to 70,000 spindles, and make weekly 500,000 yards. Of late years the manufacture has been very active, for which reason the goods are now sold so cheap.

The trade of Manchester extends itself now over the whole world. The variety of its productions is almost numberless. An idea may be formed of it from the pattern cards. In less than six months, such cards have been shewn which contain from 5 to 8000 different patterns.

The sewing cotton is a new article. The progressive improvements of the machines, which is a constant object of attention, insures the merchants of Manchester advantages over all others.

There are in the town twelve churches and three chapels of the Established Religion; the Dissenters have a chapel, the Catholics two, the Independents two the Methodists two; the Quakers, the Unitarians, the Anabaptists, the Swedenborgians (the New Jerusalem),have all their own chapels.

Of the numerous hospitals and charitable institutions, we will mention only two: the Lying-in Hospital, in which not only poor women are received, but assistance is also given

to those mothers in indigent circumstances who lie in at their own houses; and the Society of Friends of Foreigners Its object is to assist poor foreigners, and this is done without respect to difference of religion. It was founded by the Methodists, in 1791.

Manchester has a Bible Society, a Missionary Society founded by the Methodists, a Literary and Philosophical, and an Agricultural Society. There is also an establishment in which female works of all kinds are deposited. They are exposed to sale at the prices annexed to them, and a penny in a shilling is deducted, from the produce, for the expenses of the establishment.

There is no description of the manufactories of Manchester: and such are in general wanting in England, where on the other hand, there are such voluminous works upon every thing relating to architecture and antiquities.

(*To be continued.*)

Description of the Cueva del Guacharo.

From Humboldt's Travels in South America.

THE Cueva del Guacharo is pierced in the vertical profile of a rock. The entrance is toward the south, and forms a vault eighty feet broad, and seventy-two feet high. The rock that surmounts the grotto is covered with trees of gigantic height. The mammee tree, and the genipa, with large and shining leaves, raise their branches vertically toward the sky; while those of the courbrail and the erythrina form, as they extend themselves, a thick vault of verdure. Plants of the family of pothos, with succulent stems, oxalises and orchideæ of a singular structure (a dendrobium, with a golden flower, spotted with black, three inches long), rise in the driest clefts of the rock; while creeping plants, waving in the winds, are interwoven in festoons before the opening of the cavern. We distinguished in these festoons a bignonia of a violet blue, the purple dolichos, and for the first time, that magnificent solandra (scandens), the orange flower of which has a fleshy tube, more than four inches long. The entrance of grottoes, like the view of cascades, derive their principal charm from the situation, more or less majestic, in which they are placed, and which in some sort determines the character of the landscape. What a contrast between

the Cueva of Caripe, and those caverns of the north crowned with oaks and gloomy larch-trees!

But this luxury of vegetation embellishes not only the outside of the vault: it appears even in the vestibule of the grotto. We saw with astonishment plantain-leaved heliconias eighteen feet high, and arborescent arums, follow the banks of the river, even to those subterranean places. The vegetation continues in the cave of Caripe, as in those deep crevices of the Andes, half excluded from the light of day, and does not disappear, till, advancing in the interior, we reach thirty or forty paces from the entrance. We measured the way by means of a cord: and we went on about 430 feet, without being obliged to light our torches. Daylight penetrates even into this region, because the grotto forms but one single channel, which keeps the same direction, from south-east to north-west. Where the light begins to fail, we heard from afar the hoarse sounds of the nocturnal birds; sounds which the natives think belong exclusively to those subterraneous places.

The guacharo is of the size of our fowls, has the mouth of the goat-sucker and procnias, and the port of those vultures, the crooked beak of which is surrounded with stiff silky hairs. Suppressing with M. Cuvier, the order of picæ, we must refer this extraordinary bird to the passeres, the genera of which are connected with each other by almost imperceptible transitions. It forms a new genus, very different from the goat-sucker, by the force of its voice, by the considerable strength of its beak, containing a double tooth, by its feet without the membranes that unite the anterior phalanxes of the claws. It is the first example of a nocturnal bird among the passeres dentiro-strati. In its manners it has analogies both to the goat-sucker and the alpine-crow. The plumage of the guacharo is of a dark bluish gray, mixed with small streaks and specks of black. Large white spots, which have the form of a heart, and which are bordered with black, mark the head, the wings, and the tail. The eyes of the bird are hurt by the blaze of day; they are blue, and smaller than those of the goat-suckers. The spread of the wings, which are composed of seventeen or eighteen quill feathers, is three feet and a half. The guacharo quits the cavern at nightfall, especially when the moon shines. It is almost the only frugiferous nocturnal bird that is yet known; the conformation of its feet sufficiently shows, that it does not hunt like our owls. It feeds on very hard fruits. It is difficult to form an idea of the horrible noise occasioned by thousands of these birds in the dark part of the cavern. The Indians shewed us the nests of these birds, by fixing torches to the

end of a long pole. These nests were fifty or sixty feet high above our heads, in holes in the shape of funnels, with which the roof of the grotto is pierced like a sieve.

The Indians enter into the Cueva del Guacharo once a year, near Midsummer, armed with poles, by means of which they destroy the greater part of the nests. At this season several thousands of birds are killed; and the old ones, as if to defend their brood, hover over the heads of the Indians, uttering terrible cries. The young which fall to the ground, are opened on the spot. Their peritoneum is extremely loaded with fat, and a layer of fat reaches from the abdomen to the anus, forming a kind of cushion between the legs of the bird. At the period, which is commonly called at Caripe the oil harvest, the Indians build huts with palm leaves, near the entrance, and even in the porch of the cavern. There, with a fire of brush-wood, they melt in pots of clay the fat of the young birds just killed. This fat is known by the name of butter, or oil, (manteca, or aceite) of the guacharo. It is half liquid, transparent, without smell, and so pure, that it may be kept above a year without becoming rancid. At the convent of Caripe no other oil is used in the kitchen of the monks, but that of the cavern; and we never observed that it gave the aliments a disagreeable taste or smell. The quantity of this oil collected, little corresponds with the carnage made every year in the grotto by the Indians. It appears that they do not get above 150 or 160 bottles (60 cubic inches each) of very pure manteca: the rest, less transparent, is preserved in large earthen vessels. This branch of industry reminds us of the harvest of pigeon's oil, of which some thousands of barrels were formerly collected in Carolina.

When the crops and gizzards of the young birds are opened in the cavern, they are found to contain all sorts of hard and dry fruits, which furnish, under the singular name of guacharo seed, semilla del guacharo, a very celebrated remedy against intermittent fevers. The old birds carry these seeds to their young. They are carefully collected, and sent to the sick at Carinco, and other places in the low regions where fevers are prevalent.

CURE FOR STONE.

THE following cure for stone is recommended on the authority of Mr. Partridge, a respectable farmer at Springfield, Essex:—

A good handful of the fibres of garden leeks, not the leek part but the fibres only, boiled in two quarts of water till it is reduced to one quart. Take half a pint twice a day, when the stomach is most empty. A perseverance in this course will reduce stones in the bladder, so that they will come away, to the great relief of persons afflicted with that dreadful complaint, and from due repetition, a perfect cure may be expected.

Report from the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Poor Laws.

THE Select Committee appointed to consider of the Poor Laws, and to report their observations thereupon from time to time to the House, have, pursuant to the order of the House, considered the same accordingly, and agreed to the following report :—

The Committee appointed by the House in the last Session of Parliament, having in their report presented to the House such a comparative view of the assessments for the relief of the poor at different periods, as the materials which they then possessed enabled them to form, have now to make some important additions and corrections to such statements. For they have been furnished with some returns, made in pursuance of the orders of the House, of the assessments in the years 1748, 1749, and 1750; which were not known to exist, till they were discovered by the researches of Mr. Speaker into the records of the House during the recess. And though those accounts, for all the counties, except four, appear to have been more or less deficient, yet it will be found, by a reference to the Appendix, that such deficiencies have been supplied by the assiduity of Mr. Rickman, one of the clerk's assistant, in a way that will probably be thought to render them sufficiently accurate for the purpose of comparison with those of subsequent years. Nor is this the only advantage to be derived from those documents; for it has suggested a more summary method of obtaining similar information, if it should be required by the House, through the prompt and effectual means of the Post-office.

The House have now also, at length, in their possession, the returns made under the act 55 Geo. III. of the assessments for the years ending 25th March, 1813, 1814, and 1815, embracing an abundant and valuable mass of information; from these it will appear that the abstract of the assessment

for the year ending 25th March, 1815, which was returned to the Committee in the last Session, and printed in the appendix to their report, was materially incorrect, in consequence of mistakes made in preparing it, and deficiencies existing at that time in the returns, which were wholly unnoticed. The whole sum raised by assessment in that year was stated to amount to 7,068,999l.; whereas it was really 7,457,675l.: the sum expended on the poor was stated to be 5,072,028l. instead of 5,418,845l.

The result of the whole of these additions and corrections will afford the following comparative view of the sums raised by assessment, and the sums expended on the poor, at the different periods to which these authentic documents relate :—

		Total raised	Expended on Poor.
Average	1748, 1749, 1750	£730,135	£689,971
Year	1776, - -	1,720,316	1,530,304
Average	1783, 1784, 1785	2,167,748	2,004,287
Year	1808, - -	5,348,204	4,267,963
Average	1813, 1814, 1815	1,164,496	6,129,844

Your Committee have placed in the appendix a summary of these latter returns; but to the voluminous details contained in these returns, they feel it unnecessary to refer, except to express their apprehensions that the 8th column, which states the number of persons relieved from the poor-rate permanently, not including the children of such persons, must be, in a considerable degree, calculated to an erroneous conclusion, from the prevalence of the practice of affording relief nominally to parents, though it be really on account of their children.

Your Committee, upon their appointment in this Session, proceeded to consider which of their former suggestions it might be expedient to submit to the House, for the adoption of Parliament, without further delay. No time has been lost in putting such measure in the form of legislative enactments, and they have instructed their chairman to move for leave to bring in a bill or bills, on those suggestions in the first instance, which as far as they can judge, are most generally approved, and tend to amend the administration of the existing laws; while they are proceeding to re consider other parts of the subject, in which more doubt and difficulty may naturally be expected to arise.

The appendix gives the assessment for the relief of the poor in 1748, 1749, and 1750, by which it appears, that on the average of those three years about 690,000l. per annum

was applied to the relief of the poor; in the year 1776, the sum of 1,531,000l. was expended on account of the poor; in 1783-4-5, the sum of 2,000,000l. per annum; in 1803, 4,268,000l.; and in 1813-14-15, the average sum of about 6,130,000l. per annum was expended for the maintenance of the poor. But the sums raised by poor's rates, and any other rate or rates these years, was, in 1813, 8,651,438l.; in 1814, 8,392,728l. in 1815,7,460,855l. The number of paupers relieved in 1813, was 971,913; in 1814, 953,995; in 1815, 895,973. The appendix contains the following observations:

The number of persons relieved permanently, both in and out of any work-house, on the average of the last three years, appears to be 516,963: ditto, occasionally, being parishioners, 423,663; total 940,626: exclusive of any children of those permanently relieved out of the house.

Four thousand and ninety-four parishes or places maintain the greater part of their poor in work-houses, averaging for the last three years 93,142 persons.

The population of England and Wales, as taken from the Abstract laid before Parliament in the year 1811, appears to have been 10,150 615; so that the number of persons relieved from the poor's rates appears to have been 9¼ in each 100 of the population.

The total of the money raised by poor's rates, or other rates, appears to have averaged, for the last three years, the sum of 8,168,340l. 13s. 9¾d. being at the rate of 16s. 1d. per head on the population, or 3s. 1¾d. in the pound, of the total amount of the sum of 51,898,423l. 12s. 6½d as assessed to the property tax in the year 1815.

The amount of money expended in suits of law, removals and expenses of parish officers, for militia purposes and for all other purposes, is, independently of the maintenance of the poor, 2,162,799l.

The number of persons belonging to friendly societies appears to be, for the last three years, nearly 8½ in the 100 of the resident population.

The area of England and Wales, according to the latest authorities, appears to be 57,960 square statute miles, or 37,094,400 statute acres; wherefore, the number of inhabitants in each square mile, containing 640 acres, averages 175 persons.

The greater proportion of the population of England and Wales appears to be employed in trade and manufactures, there being 770,199 families returned employed in agriculture, and 959,632 in trade, manufactures, and handicraft; besides 413,316 other families.

Sketches of Society among the Mountaineers of Suli, in Epirus, after their Conquest by Ali Pacha of Joannina.

THE mountaineers of Suli had, from their retired situation, assumed the character of a peculiar tribe. They inhabited ten or twelve large villages, the most considerable of which might perhaps be a mile distant from the fortress of Suli. They were originally Albanians, of the tribe of the Tzamides. The majority of their former countrymen had turned Mahometans; but they had retained the Christian religion, though much disfigured, and adapted to their situation. Their number scarcely exceeded 12,000, of which the third or fourth part were capable of bearing arms They are distinguished from all the other Albanians by their rudeness and invincible courage. The Suliot women shared the employments and dangers of their husbands, and sustained all the inconveniences of an unquiet life. It is said that the women were allowed to draw water from a certain fountain in succession, and in the same order as their husbands had gained glory in war; and in the war which Ali Pacha had with these mountaineers, their women performed actions which would have done honour to men.

Yet, in describing the Suliots, we must not forget that they are robbers, who have become by degrees warriors, and joined some virtues with savageness and pillage. They were the terror of Southern Albania. When they descended from their mountains, seeking revenge and plunder, the whole country trembled. Their own valleys were visited by nobody: neither friend nor enemy dared to come near them. They were never subject to the Turkish rulers of Albania; but Ali Pacha could not endure the thought that a tribe so near him should defy his authority with impunity, and even extend their robberies almost to his capital. His first attempts were weak and limited; in proportion as his power incresed, he rendered himself more formidable to them; he continued the war from year to year, and, though the events are of little importance, there is not one which is not celebrated in some Albanese song. He at length attacked the Suliots with great force, it is said 18,000 men, the command of which he gave to his sons Mouctar and Veli, and at last succeeded in making himself master of an elevated position, where he established a place of security for his troops: the Suliots, however, did not abandon their position, and it was only by bribing their chief that he attained his end. His soldiers penetrated into the village of Suli; but

the inhabitants, led by their priests, and assisted by their wives, obstinately continued the combat. A woman named Cheito displayed the most admirable intrepidity, and one of their priests, when he saw no more hopes of flight, blew up the building in which he had taken refuge. Enclosed on all sides, without prospect of escape, many cut their way through, others killed themselves, but more were cut to pieces. It is said that a crowd of women, being pushed towards a precipice, threw their children down it, devoting them to death rather than to slavery. Some found a refuge in Parga, others in Corfu, and it is said that Ali Pacha, dreading the effect of their despair, connived at their flight, although it had been his intention to extirpate the whole tribe; for he destroyed their villages, and peopled the few habitations which he had left with Albanians. It is now ten years since this war took place, and yet people are still full of the heroism and the stratagems to which it gave birth.

THE BEAR HUNT.

From an American Paper.

ON the 29th of January, a bear was caught, and taken from its den, in Warwick Mountain, after a vigilant search of eight days, by a party of huntsmen from Warwick. The bear had taken shelter in a declivity of rocks about forty feet deep. Attempts were first made to get him out by smoking, &c. but without effect. Dogs were then sent into the hole, but they either retreated at his terrific aspect, or were destroyed by his grasp. At length the huntsmen finding all attempts to frighten him from his retreat fruitless, blew the rock over the hole, and came within about sixteen feet of the bear. These continued operations made him fierce and terrible. After the hole blown through the rock was sufficiently large to admit the body of a man, John Ward, jun. crept into it, placed lighted candles fixed upon the end of a pole towards the bear, and with a musket shot at him, but without effect. He descended the second time, and shot him in the fore legs: the bear at each fire advanced towards the mouth of the hole, but Ward was not to be intimidated; he descended again, and shot the ferocious beast in one eye. Ward was now drawn out; the bear fiercely followed him; he instantly seized a rifle from the hands of another huntsman, and discharged its contents into the head of the animal, which proved fatal. He measured six feet from the nose to the end of the tail, and weighed 313lbs.

An Eye Witness's Account of the recent Discovery of a Roman Villa in Oxfordshire.

A Few days ago I made an interesting excursion to the Roman Villa, discovered near Stonesfield, 11 miles from Oxford. It was first pointed out in 1816, by the Rev. Mr. Brown, the vicar of that parish. By the assistance of that gentleman, and of the Duke of Marlborough, on whose estate the villa stands, extensive discoveries have been made. The building encloses about three acres of land; the peristyle, on every side of the quadrangle, is very evident, as are the divisions of forty-seven rooms. The pavements are tesselated, and in good condition. One of them in a large room is perfect. The *tesseræ* are so exactly laid together, so beautifully varied, and the pattern so correct and elegant, that the best floor-cloth is not painted with more accuracy or beauty. The pattern is one which frequently appears on our modern floor cloths. The baths are completely excavated, and the *hypocausts* and flues, by which they warmed the rooms in the manner we have adopted for hot-houses, are apparent. The largest rooms seem to be about 30 by 35—one is exactly 28 by 24; a proportion, in which the length exceeds the width much less than in modern rooms. Nothing has been found to fix the precise date of the villa; the coins collected are those of Constantine the Great, who was Cæsar in 306, and Augustus from 308 to 337. The Duke of Marlborough shews a due regard to these valuable remains of antiquity. At present the remains of pillars and the tesselated pavements are covered with mould, to protect them from frosts, which are particularly injurious to the latter by loosening the *tesseræ*.

Answer, by J. Bond, of Heathstock, to L. H's. Question, inserted May 12th.

THE sum of the squares is 358,16 and not 358,6, as it is printed; proceeding accordingly, I find, without any difficulty, the numbers to be 11 and 15,4. The error in the figures is admitted by the gentleman who proposed the question.

Similar answers have been received from A. T. of Plymstock; and J. Jerwood, of Poughill.

Answer, by Anne, of Martock, to J. Eames's Charade, inserted December 29.

WHEN walking o'er the lovely green,
A-GATE, be sure, I've often seen;
On Aaron's breast, with many more,
This precious stone you may explore.

☞ Similar answers have been received from A. G. Whitefield, and J. P. Reed, of Plymouth; Zeno, of Helstone; J. Parris, of Axminster; Abraham Saint, of Bristol; and T. D. Major, of Colyton.

Answer, by W. Dunster, of North Cadbury, to J. Parris's Rebus, inserted the 12th of January.

THE lip reversed, and joined with Chard,
Will bring to view the fish PILCHARD.

The same answer has been received from R. Lewis, of Poole.

CHARADE, *by Samson, of Bristol.*

MY first is, by royal command,
A trap for the rogues of the land;
It serves other purposes too,
As the form of it plainly will shew;
My last is a notable step,
On which numerators do leap:
To make now my whole to you known,
I say it is what I've just done.

CHARADE, *by Ann.*

MY first, a sounding instrument,
Its name you'll soon declare;
My next, when walking on the plain,
Near oxen you may hear.
Then add one letter to the whole,
My name will be in view;
It is in kitchens useful found,
So now, kind friends, adieu!

REBUS, *by J. Tucker, of Cornwortlay.*

WHAT I delight sometimes to do;
Part of an island known to you;
A city in Great Britain's isle;
What often makes dame Fortune smile:
A name to loyal Britons dear;
What you may oft discover here;
A bird that loves to rove by night;
What sometimes gives me much delight;
The initials joined will represent
What gives the pious mind content.

POETRY.

THE MOON.

IL FRENETICO.

Extracted from the Literary Gazette.

MY mind is full of many wanderings,
Past thoughts, that come like shadows from their graves,
Dissolving as we clasp them, sudden sounds,
That have no touch of earthly minstrelsie,
But seem to fall bathed in the honey dews,
And soft as star-light. Yet within the brain
Waking strange fantasies, and then they fly,
And leave me feeding on my melancholy.
Twilight is gone at last, and night is come,
To torture me. And now its herald wind
Comes gushing chilly through my prison bars.
I hate thee! yet thou'rt lovely to earth's slaves:
To the tired sea-boy nestling in the shrouds;
The soldier loves thee, weary from his march,
And longing to ungird his harnessry;
The o'erlaboured peasant feels thee full of life,
And thy dim clouds stoop down, a covering
Of genial slumber on his quiet bed.
But to the brain of visions, to torn hearts
Mouldering, like embers that yet feed their flame,
Mother of spectres, thou'rt a fearful thing.

* * * * * *

But light is stealing dimly through my cell,
Streak upon streak, like ebon ivory-lined,
The moon has risen. How glorious through the clouds
She sweeps her way, a bark magnificent,
Careering lonely through a silver sea.
Now the white billow hides her—now she rolls
Free through a sapphire depth, anon a ring
Swells round her, swiftly tinged with widening hues
Of watery pearl, and the white blowing rose,
As if her prow had plunged, and chafed the blue
Of that celestial ocean into foams.

* * * * *

I feel as if strong pinions on my feet
Were lifting me from earth. I see the moon
Expanding as I rise. 'Tis lovelier now,
Though seen but from mid air. Long emerald hues
Mingled with purple, and the sapphire light
That beams from evening waters, image there
Bowers of bright beauty, solemn glades, soft hills
Empurpled with the mantle of rich blooms
That know no time of fading, crystal lakes
Fanned but by musky gales those sweet buds breathe.
Thou art no pilgrim-bark through heavenly seas;
But a soft lower Paradise, to soothe
The spirits of the innocent, ere they pass
Before the loftier throne. Here rest, sweet babes
That looked but upon earth, and wept and died;

Maids that like May-dew shone, and were exhaled;
High hearts that died of unrequited love,
As myrtle blossoms, dropt without a wind;
Disastrous patriots, fallen before they won
The desperate field, their laurels plucked, not wreathed;
Bards that with nature's touch awoke the harp,
Yet won not the world's ear, till on their graves
That sweet harp echoed, drawing useles tears.
* * * * *

I've reached thee now. Thou art no Paradise,
Where injured spirits brighten for high Heaven;
Thou art a lonely throne; thy canopy
Veils the resplendent angel of our world.
A thousand seraphs in their circles wait
On him, the servant of a mightier One.
Some he commands to wheel in holy watch
Around the globe, some from their plumes to pour
The harvest blooms of gold, some to drop dew
And odours on the shrub, and springing flower,
Some to tint beauty's cheek, or limn the clouds
With light of gems, and blushes of the morn.
But in his own high hand he holds the reins
That rule the ocean. Still I see him not,
So deep a veil is round his kingly tent,
Flashing thick brilliance like a web of stars.
It opens. Thou bright sitter on that throne!
My spirit sinks before thee, as the night
Before the morn. 'Tis not the diadem
Floating in diamond fires upon thy brow,
Nor sceptre, though it glow with living light
Perpetual, pearly flame and lambent gold;
I bend before thy power of loveliness.

He sits like one embosomed in high thought,
His arm outstretched, and hand upon the globe
Of his fixed sceptre; his eye gazing far
And forward, shooting out a calm, long blaze
Blue as the lightnings on the summer eve.
His locks are amber rays, that sparkling fall,
Parted, around his high, pure brow, and shade,
Clustering, the cheek, where flowers of Paradise
Mix with the splendours of the western sun.
He stands, and his broad wings unfold above
In feathery light, pavilioning his state,
A silver canopy, not without sound,
Nor fragrance, as they ruffle that sweet air;
But followed with wild, sudden symphonies
That earthly harps know not; and odorous breath
Richer than myrtles and the Persian rose,
Crushed, wreathed, and weeping, i'th'evening dew.

X.

TO A VAIN BEAUTY.

FANNY, so beautiful thou art,
Thy lovely face subdues each heart;
But then so silly and so vain,
Thy tongue absolves them from the chain:
Heaven, in mercy to mankind,
Gave so much beauty such a mind.